



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: My company is currently going through a chap accreditation and the inspector noted that a follow-up visit by a respiratory therapist on an oxygen patient cannot include an oximetry test, blood pressure reading, or the like, without a plan of treatment and a prescription from the doctor. We were under the impression that these services are routine and expected during a visit from a respiratory therapist to an established or new oxygen patient for reasons of evaluation of compliance. We noted that even some drug stores have blood pressure machines, which read your blood pressure automatically, without a prescription or even supervision.

Please clarify this for us

Response: The Board has the following comment regarding your inquiry:

Providing appropriate assessment of a patient is a practice that is defined by an organizations policies and procedures. I should reflect what is reasonable to assess given the patient's clinical condition and applied clinical treatment (i.e. oxygen therapy). There is currently no legislative statute that dictates what should or should not be included in that assessment.

To receive payment for these services may require a care plan and a physician's order depending upon the insurance plan and their individual plan requirements.

Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference #: 2004-C-36